

Waste Management Exploratory Committee Town of Westborough Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date	12Apr2023
Time	5:00-6:30 PM ET (Times are approximate)
Location	Forbes Municipal Building, Room 207/ Remote Participation

Attendance	Role
Peter Allen	Committee Member
Nathan Askew (Remote)	Committee Member, Vice Chairman
Lauren Buerstatte	Committee Member, Secretary
Irene Congdon	Central MA Municipal Assistance Coordinator, MA DEP
Katie Curtin-Mestre	Committee Member, Chairman
Rebecca Dolan	Committee Member
Dr. Alan Ehrlich	Committee Member Board of Health Chair
Shelby Marshall (Remote)	Committee Member, Select Board Member
Jennifer Sullivan (Remote)	Board of Health Director
Kristi Williams (Remote)	Town Manager

Discussion Topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting called to order at 5:04pm, Governors orders read. • Motion to approve minutes from 15 Mar. 2023 by L. Buerstatte, seconded by KCM. The 15 Mar. 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved via roll call vote: N. Askew- Yes, L. Buerstatte- yes; S. Marshall- yes; P. Allen- yes; K. Curtin- Mestre- yes; R. Dolan- abstained. • Motion to approve minutes from 04 Apr. 2023 by L. Buerstatte, seconded by P. Allen. 04 Apr. 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved via roll call vote: N. Askew- Yes, L. Buerstatte- yes; S. Marshall- yes; P. Allen- yes; K. Curtin- Mestre- yes; R. Dolan- yes. • Finalize Recommended Go-Forward Options (Curbside including PAYT recommendation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I. Congdon recommends splitting curbside drop off vs. how to finance it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get the answer on the mechanism first, and then figure out financing ○ Today we need to review the structured process; rubric shows pros and cons of various programs; Irene's presentation; benchmark towns. ○ Take a vote from committee members. The Committee is recommending that we do not pursue opening a new town transfer station (TS). A. Ehrlich is not comfortable with that kind of vote. S. Marshall: the charge for this board is to come up with

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recommendations and clear goals to reduce waste. A TS is not a solution in and of itself to reduce waste.

- S. Marshall makes a motion that this committee recommends to pursue a townwide curbside program, seeking proposals for such a program. K. Curtin-Mestre seconds the motion. S. Marshall amends the motion to encourage the Select Board to seek a comprehensive curbside proposal for 'traditional waste' and common recycling. Ask for all inclusive line item proposals, then make a determination. (Excluding yard waste).
- A. Ehrlich- this motion should not be all encompassing. This is a townwide curbside solid waste proposal. There should be a separate motion for what to do with what doesn't fall within most hauler's plans. K. Curtin-Mestre- we will ask haulers for a "base package", which should include waste and recyclables. Then additional line items can be added.
- K. Curtin-Mestre clarifies motion to: "Committee recommends the town to pursue a townwide curbside solid waste and recycling program and seek proposals from haulers. Marshall ok with this amended motion. KCM seconded the amended motion. Roll call vote: N. Askew- yes, S. Marshall- yes; P. Allen- yes; A. Ehrlich- yes; L. Buerstatte- yes; R. Dolan- yes; K. Curtin-Mestre- yes.
- K. Curtin-Mestre wants to be clear that if someone decides to hire a private hauler, they will have to cover the payment. There will be no town subsidy if you decide to go private.
- The Wheelabrator contract will only be going to the municipal program, not to any private haulers using the town's name. J. Sullivan is not sure if we can do that. She stated that any truck from Westborough going to Wheelabrator can charge the town. J. Sullivan has asked Wheelabrator about this. I. Congdon: you should be able to give Wheelabrator a list of trucks under the Westborough Municipal contract; that will not cover any private hauler hauling in Westborough.
- Proposal: unless it is not correct per contract, the recommendation of this committee after transfer station closes, is that the Westborough contract with Wheelabrator is only available for the municipally sponsored program.
- J. Sullivan stated that she called and asked Wheelabrator if other haulers can use Wheelabrator under Westborough (and charged to Westborough)- they said yes. J. Sullivan will confirm again if this is true.
- Motion by K. Curtin-Mestre: The Westborough contract with Wheelabrator is to only be available for the hauler or haulers on the municipally sponsored program. S. Marshall seconded this motion. S. Marshall added for the Select Board: through J. Sullivan, verify this conversation that Wheelabrator can operationalize this and this is also their understanding. J. Sullivan agrees to confirm. Roll call vote: P. Allen- yes; L. Buerstatte-yes; R. Dolan- yes; N. Askew- yes; S. Marshall- yes; A. Ehrlich- yes; K. Curtin-Mestre- yes.
- P. Allen- motions that committee endorses Pay as you Throw (PAYT) based on all of the information we've gathered. There is convincing evidence that it reduces waste. K. Curtin-Mestre seconded. WEC endorses PAYT and having the town investigate ways which that can be implemented. S. Marshall thinks it's too soon to vote prior to

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- knowing the finances of PAYT. She thinks we need proposals first from vendors, then price each program out (with or without PAYT). A. Ehrlich agrees with this.
- K. Williams thinks it's appropriate for this committee to support a motion to pursue PAYT with the caveat that we don't have the final cost yet, but recognize that the PAYT program as being the most effective in reducing waste.
 - K. Curtin-Mestre: the committee is recommending pursuing PAYT, understanding that we don't have all of the cost information but per state data and all of this committee's research, it is proven to be most effective in reducing waste. S. Marshall: what about composting- if we recommend PAYT, we need to discuss and include composting. KCM- let's prioritize composting as the next topic to vote on.
 - Vote on P. Allen's amended motion: This committee recommends pursuing PAYT with the caveat that we don't have the final cost yet, but recognize that the PAYT program as being the most effective in reducing waste. K. Curtin-Mestre seconds the motion. Roll call vote: P. Allen yes; L. Buerstatte- yes; R. Dolan- yes; N. Askew- yes; S. Marshall- no; A. Ehrlich- no; K. Curtin-Mestre- yes. Motion approved, 5-2. S. Marshall wants to clarify that her "no" vote is based on timing of the vote, not the content of the vote.
 - A. Ehrlich motions: As part of the townwide solid waste contract, the committee recommends making sure that compost is part of the solid waste management curbside program whether by a single hauler (also picking up trash and recycling) or a dedicated hauler. K. Curtin-Mestre seconds. P. Allen- does this exclude the idea of people going to a drop off location with compost, then haulers taking it from there? A. Ehrlich amended his motion to add: The curbside program does not preclude local drop off points as a composting option. Roll call vote: A. Ehrlich- yes; P. Allen- yes; L. Buerstatte- yes; R. Dolan- yes; K. Curtin- Mestre- yes; N. Askew- yes; S. Marshall yes.
- Next scheduled meetings: Tues., 02 May 2023, 6:00 pm; Wed., 10 May 2023, 5:00pm.
 - Presentation for the Select Board: 2 people to work on presentation. It will be reviewed by this committee before it goes to the SB.
 - Select Board meetings are on 25 April 2023; 09 May 2023. The committee will need to submit the presentation by 04 May 2023.
 - The presentation should include:
 - The Journey and options this committee has evaluated
 - What the committee is recommending
 - Request the S.B.'s approval to move forward with the creation of a RFP/Interest Form for potential vendors
 - At what point does this committee's work stop and the Select Board's work start?
 - S. Marshall: this committee should have input in developing the RFP.
 - N. Askew: The Environmental Action Fair is on May 13th. If we get an affirmative vote from the Select Board on May 9th, what would be our committee's message at that table? A. Ehrlich: either way- gathering input would be most useful. I. Congdon: let the public know that the TS has closed at this time.

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- Gather a list of questions to offer people. Include the timeline for this committee's task. Sign up for people who want information. N. Askew to work with L. Buerstatte and S. Marshall to work on questions and plan for the fair.
- Motion to adjourn meeting by K. Curtin-Mestre; A. Ehrlich seconded. Roll call vote- N. Askew- Yes, L. Buerstatte- yes; S. Marshall- yes; P. Allen- yes; K. Curtin- Mestre- yes; Dolan- yes; A. Ehrlich- yes.